701 students at the Minsk officers school were also recruited exclusively
563 from among Belorussians, /15/ and all the training as well as the commands were given in Belorussian. A special corps of specialists on Belorussia, with the experienced philologist, Baranovskii, as their leader, was selected for work in the officers' school. All the military regulations of the Red Army were translated into Belorussian. But the Belorussianization of these two divisions was sharply curtailed after 1930, the Belorussian specialists were fired from the officers school, and a significant number of them were subsequently arrested together with their leader. By 1932 no traces remained of the Belorussianization of these two territorial divisions, The Second Division, quartered in Minsk, had its name changed from Territorial to Experienced Regular Division, and the Belorussianization of parts of the Red Army was pronounced a harmful diversionary activity.

At one point, in order to strengthen the Soviet state, the
563 slogan of "going to the soil" was promoted in Belorussia. The main
647 reason for this was to fill the Soviet state apparatus with local workers independent of their nationality, and by this it was intended that the local Party workers, being native inhabitants of the area and knowing the language, customs, and way of life of the Belorussians, would be the more close to the national masses. However this campaign did not have any widespread success and was swallowed up by ensuing campaigns which were of a broader nature.

Propaganda among the Peasants

665 In 1924, a movement began in Belorussia under the noisy title of "Let's face the land," and it involved the mass dispatch of responsible workers from the centers into the rayon and village soviets for agitation and organizational work there. When the NEP had attained a steady tempo the peasantry found itself in a very
● [illegible] difficult situation. The prices of agricultural products were low and those of factory made products immeasurably high. For example, a peasant had to pay no less than 320 kilograms of grain for an ordinary Tula samovar. At the time the hard and reliable Soviet chervonets had acquired a solid position in the economy. But the peasants had no
665 chervontsi . . . To raise the depressed mood of the peasantry propa-
557 gandists were sent out for extended periods, and some of them were even left in the rayons for permanent work as responsible Party leaders. It was decided simultaneously to advance non-Party peasants and factory workers to responsible positions. Such a new worker was

Prices and Prices

434 Detailed information on food rations in Byelorussia is not available, but they are believed to be similar to those in the Ukrainian S.S.R.[1]

435 Prices are controlled by the government and price levels vary with the type of market outlet rather than with the type of commodity.
443 In the government ration stores prices are low. In all the main cities, however, there are also one or two special stores, so called "gastronomes", (which are also government operated); these sell unrationed goods at relatively high prices. Their stock consists in large part of luxury items (such as smoked salmon) but some of their commodities are the same as or comparable to those sold in the ration stores. Individuals may therefore supplement their rations of various commodities by purchases at the gastronomes if they are able and willing to pay the price. While the ration stores sell UNRRA food,[2] the entire stock of the gastronomes comes from Byelorussian or Soviet Union sources.

In addition to these stores, and to the special stores serving factory workers and those supplying extra rations at low prices to war invalids and expectant and nursing mothers, there are public markets in the principal cities. Here country people come to sell the allowed quota of their produce and second-hand goods are bought and sold. Prices resemble those in the gastronomes.

435 The difference in prices between the ration stores and the gastronomes in the summer of 1946 is illustrated in the following table.

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1 See Operational Analysis Paper No. 39, Economic Rehabilitation in the Ukraine.

2 In the late spring and summer of 1946 the foodstuffs (with the exception of bread and potatoes) sold in these shops was to a very great extent of UNRRA origin. Some estimates gave the UNRRA contribution as 70 per cent. of the turnover, but this figure has not been confirmed by the Byelorussian Government. Later the UNRRA percentage gradually decreased as the supply from Soviet sources increased.